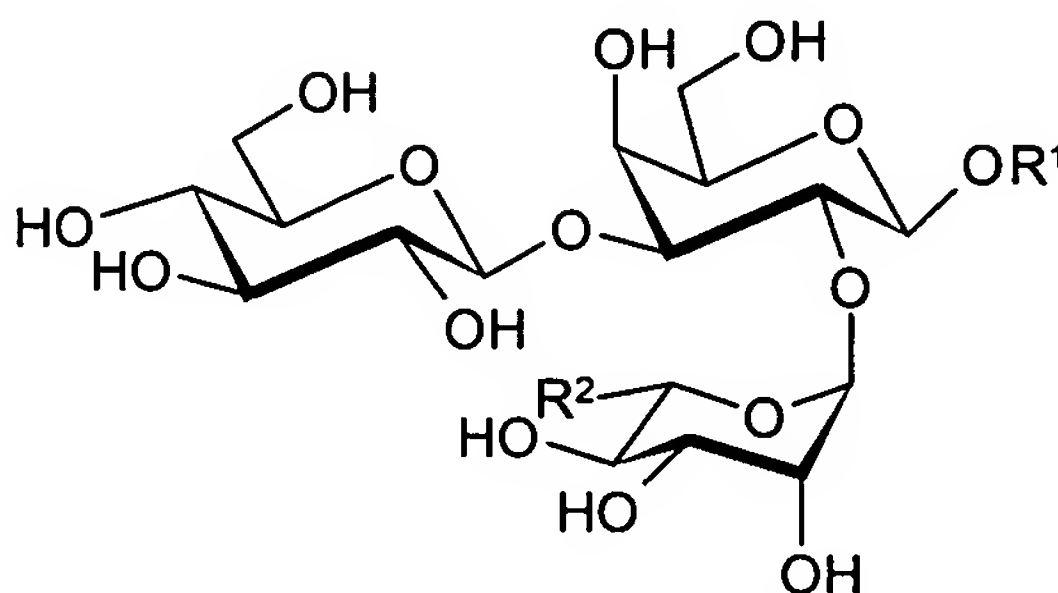


IN THE CLAIMS

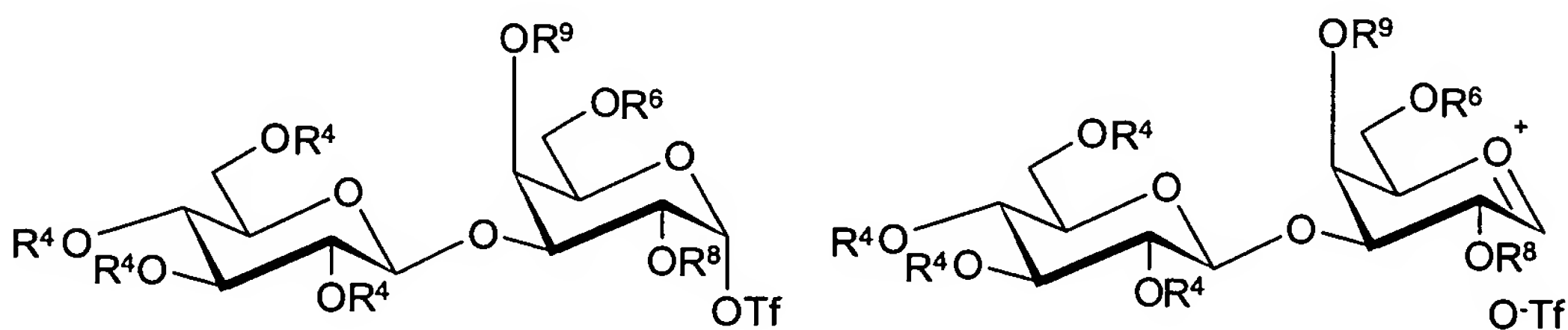
1. (original) A method for the preparation of a steroid modified solatriose of general formula (I):



Formula (I)

wherein R^1 represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups; and R^2 represents a straight or branched C_{1-4} alkyl group or a hydroxyl group, which method comprises the step of:

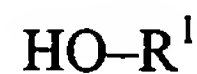
reacting a compound of general formula (XIII):



Formula (XIII)

wherein each R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivoyl protecting group; R^6 represents a pivoyl protecting group; R^8 represents a chloroacetyl protecting group; R^9 represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivoyl protecting group; and Tf represents a triflate leaving group;

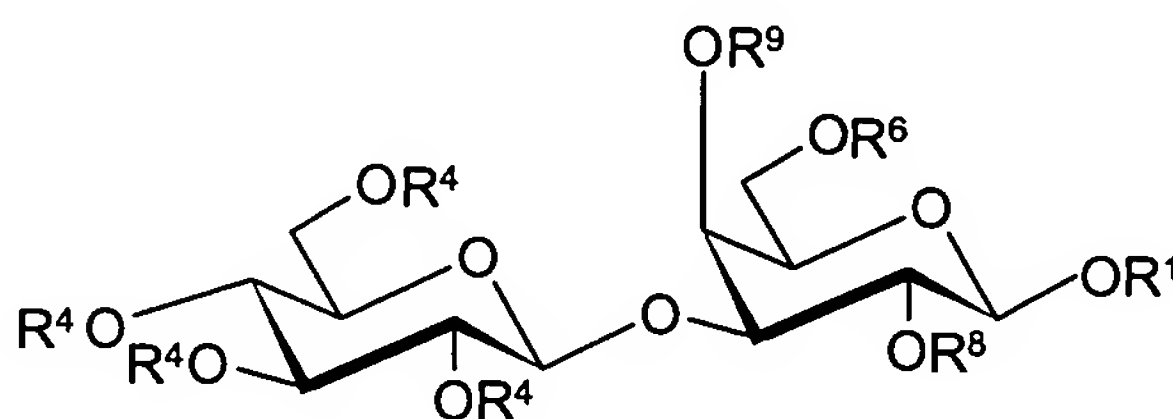
with a compound of general formula (XIV):



Formula (XIV)

wherein R^1 is as defined above

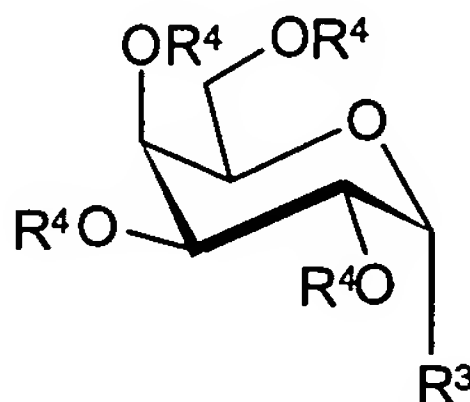
to yield a compound of general formula (XV):



Formula (XV)

wherein R^1 , R^6 , R^8 and R^9 are as defined above.

2. (original) The method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of: reacting galactose to yield a galactose fully protected with ester type protecting groups, and subsequently treating with hydrogen bromide or hydrogen chloride to yield a compound of general formula (II):



Formula (II)

wherein R^3 represents a chlorine or bromine atom; and R^4 is as defined in claim 1.

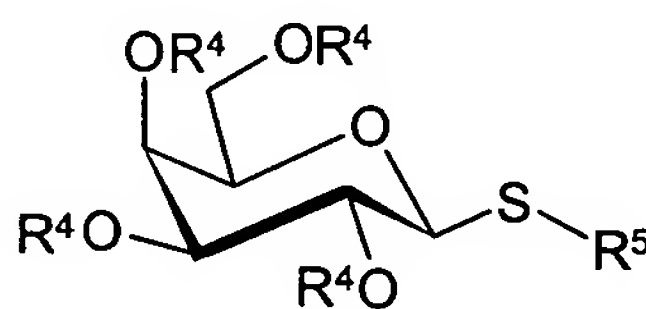
3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~claims 1 or 2~~, further comprising the step:
reacting a compound of general formula (II) as defined in claim 2, with a compound of general formula (III):



Formula (III)

wherein R^5 represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-4} alkyl groups ~~whereby the C_{1-14} alkyl groups are preferably selected from methyl, ethyl and propyl and the phenyl group is preferably selected from phenyl, p-methylphenyl and p-chlorophenyl; and methyl, ethyl and propyl are particularly preferred;~~

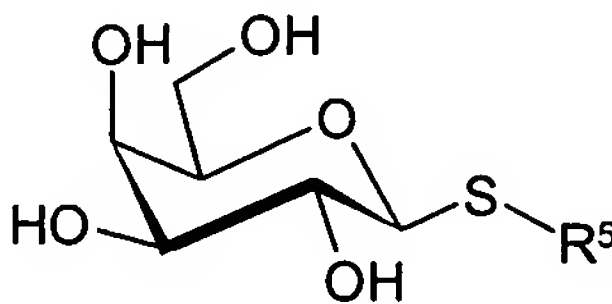
to yield a compound of general formula (IV):



Formula (IV)

wherein R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivoyl protecting group ~~is as defined in claim 1~~, and R^5 is as defined above.

4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 3, further comprising the step of:
deprotecting a compound of general formula (IV) as defined in claim 3 to yield a compound of general formula (V):

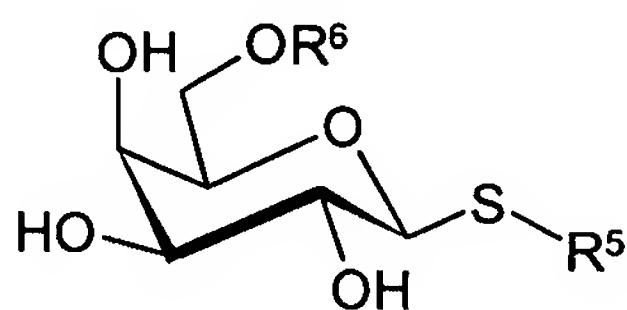


Formula (V)

wherein R^5 is as defined in claim 3.

5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 4, further comprising the step of:

selectively protecting the OH group in the 6-position of a compound of formula (V) as defined in claim 4 with pivolyl chloride using standard conditions to yield a compound of general formula (VI):

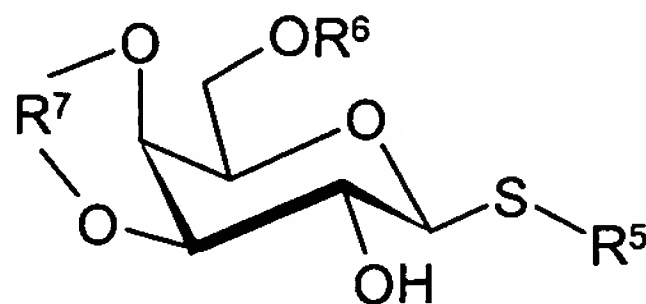


Formula (VI)

wherein R^5 ~~in claim 3~~ represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-4} alkyl groups; and R^6 is a pivolyl, benzoyl or substituted benzoyl protecting group, whereby the substituents are selected from alkyl groups such as methyl, halogen atoms such as Cl, Br, F, and I and NO_2 .

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 5, further comprising the step of:

selectively protecting the OH groups in 3- and 4-position with a ketal or acetal protecting type protecting group using standard conditions, to yield a compound of general formula (VII):

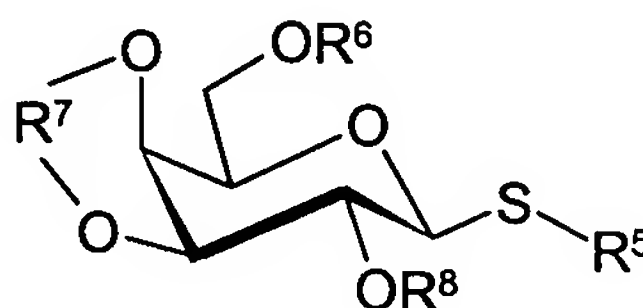


Formula (VII)

wherein R^5 represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-4} alkyl groups and R^6 ~~are as defined in claims 3 and 5, respectively~~ is a pivolyl, benzoyl or substituted benzoyl protecting group, whereby the substituents are selected from alkyl groups such as methyl, halogen atoms

such as Cl, Br, F, and I and NO₂; and R⁷ represents a ketal or acetal type protecting group selected from the group consisting of benzylidene, 4-nitrobenzylidene, 4-methoxybenzylidene and isopropylidene.

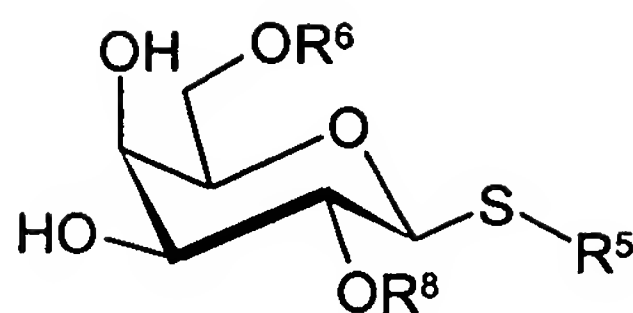
7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to claim 6~~, further comprising the step of:
protecting the OH group in 2-position of the compound of general formula (VII) as defined in claim 6 with chloroacetyl chloride using standard conditions, to yield a compound of general formula (VIII):



Formula (VIII)

wherein R⁵ represents a straight or branched C₁₋₁₄ alkyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₄ alkyl groups;
R⁶ is a pivoyl, benzoyl or substituted benzoyl protecting group, whereby the substituents are selected from alkyl groups such as methyl, halogen atoms such as Cl, Br, F, and I and NO₂. and R⁷ represents a ketal or acetal type protecting group selected from the group consisting of benzylidene, 4-nitrobenzylidene, 4-methoxybenzylidene and isopropylidene ~~are as defined in claims 3, 5 and 6, respectively;~~ and R⁸ represents a chloroacetyl protecting group.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to claim 7~~, further comprising the step of:
selectively deprotecting the OH group in 3- and 4-position of the compound of general formula (VIII) as defined in claim 7 using standard conditions, to yield a compound of general formula (IX):

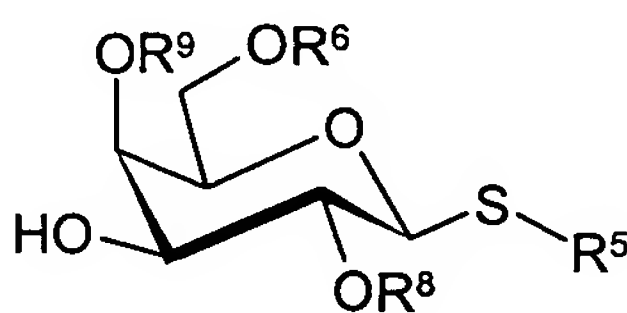


Formula (IX)

wherein R^5 represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-4} alkyl groups; R^6 is a pivolyl, benzoyl or substituted benzoyl protecting group, whereby the substituents are selected from alkyl groups such as methyl, halogen atoms such as Cl, Br, F, and I and NO_2 ; and R^8 represents a chloroacetyl protecting group ~~are as defined in claims 3, 5 and 7,~~ respectively.

9. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 8, further comprising the step of:

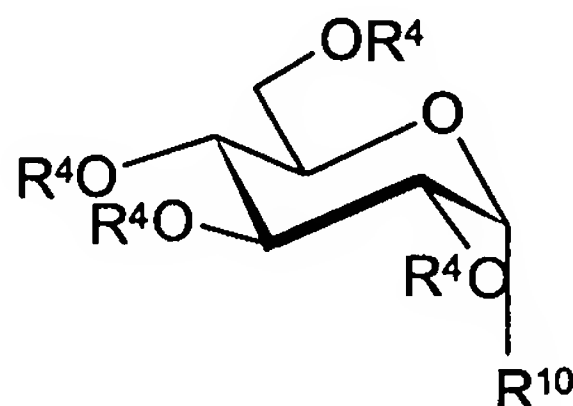
reacting the compound of general formula (IX) with a trialkylorthoacetate, benzoate or pivolate to form an 3,4-orthor ester which is subsequently migrated to the axial 4-position under acidic conditions to yield a compound of general formula (X):



Formula (X)

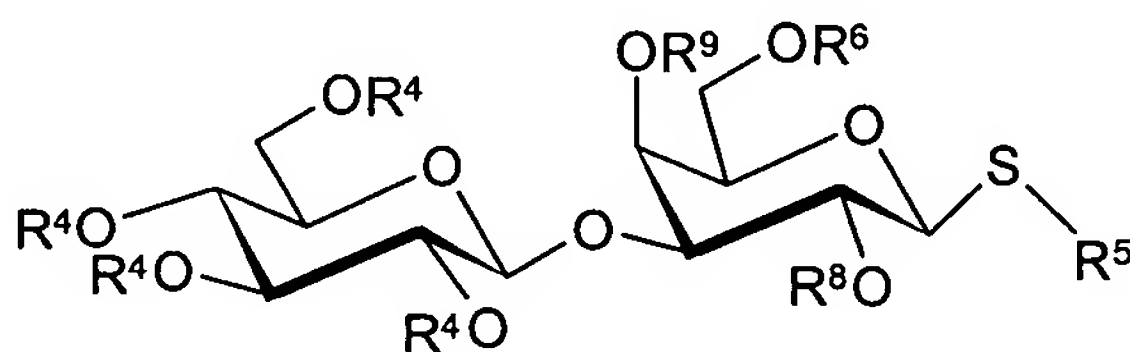
wherein R^5 represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-4} alkyl groups; R^6 is a pivolyl, benzoyl or substituted benzoyl protecting group, whereby the substituents are selected from alkyl groups such as methyl, halogen atoms such as Cl, Br, F, and I and NO_2 ; R^8 represents a chloroacetyl protecting group; and R^9 represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivolyl protecting group ~~are as defined in claims 3, 5, 7 and 1 respectively.~~

10. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to claim 9~~, further comprising the step of:
reacting the OH group in 3-position of the compound of general formula (X) as defined in claim 9 with a protected halogen glucose derivative of general formula (XI):



Formula (XI)

wherein R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivolyl protecting groupis as defined in claim 1; and R^{10} represents a halogen atom, a trichloroacetimidate group, or a thioalkyl group having 1 to 14 carbon atoms, to yield a compound of general formula (XII):

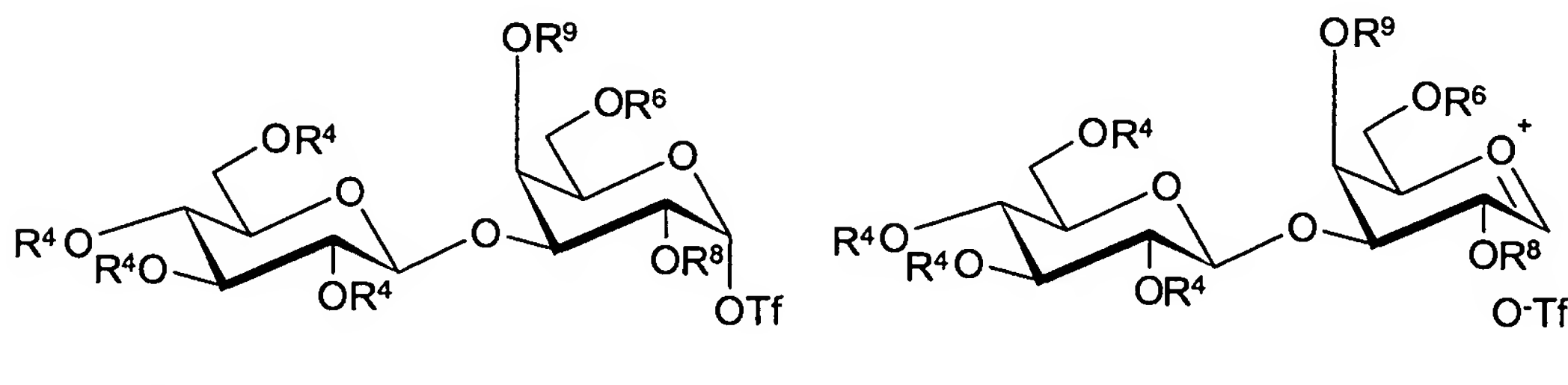


Formula (XII)

wherein R^4 independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivolyl protecting group, R^5 represents a straight or branched C_{1-14} alkyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-4} alkyl groups; R^6 is a pivolyl, benzoyl or substituted benzoyl protecting group, whereby the substituents are selected from alkyl groups such as methyl, halogen atoms such as Cl, Br, F, and I and NO_2 ; R^8 represents a chloroacetyl protecting group; and R^9 represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivolyl protecting group ~~are as defined in claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, respectively.~~

11. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 10, further comprising the step of:

activating the compound of general formula (XII) as defined in claim 10 by oxidizing the thio ether group to a sulfoxide using hydrogen peroxide, and subsequently treating the resulting intermediate with triflic anhydride, to yield a compound of general formula (XIII)

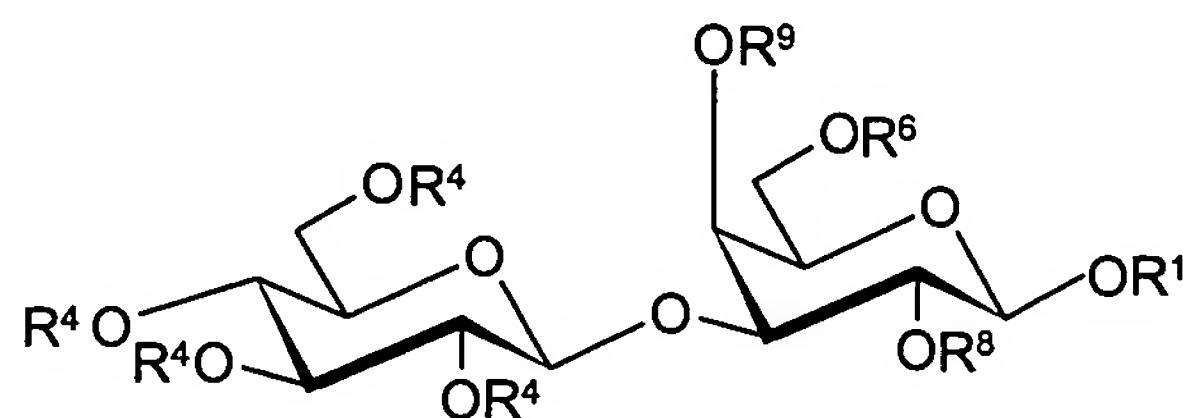


Formula (XIII)

wherein each R⁴ independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivoyl protecting group; R⁶ represents a pivoyl protecting group; R⁸ represents a chloroacetyl protecting group; R⁹ represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivoyl protecting group; and Tf represents a triflate leaving group as defined in claim 1.

12. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to claim 13~~, further comprising the step of:

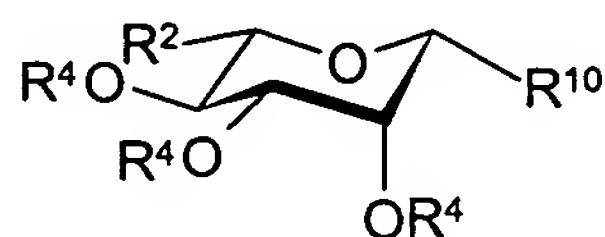
selectively deprotecting the OH group in the 2-position of the compound of general formula (XV) ~~as defined in claim 1~~



Formula (XV)

wherein R¹ represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups; R⁶ represents a pivoly protecting group; R⁸ represents a chloroacetyl protecting group and R⁹ represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivoly protecting group;

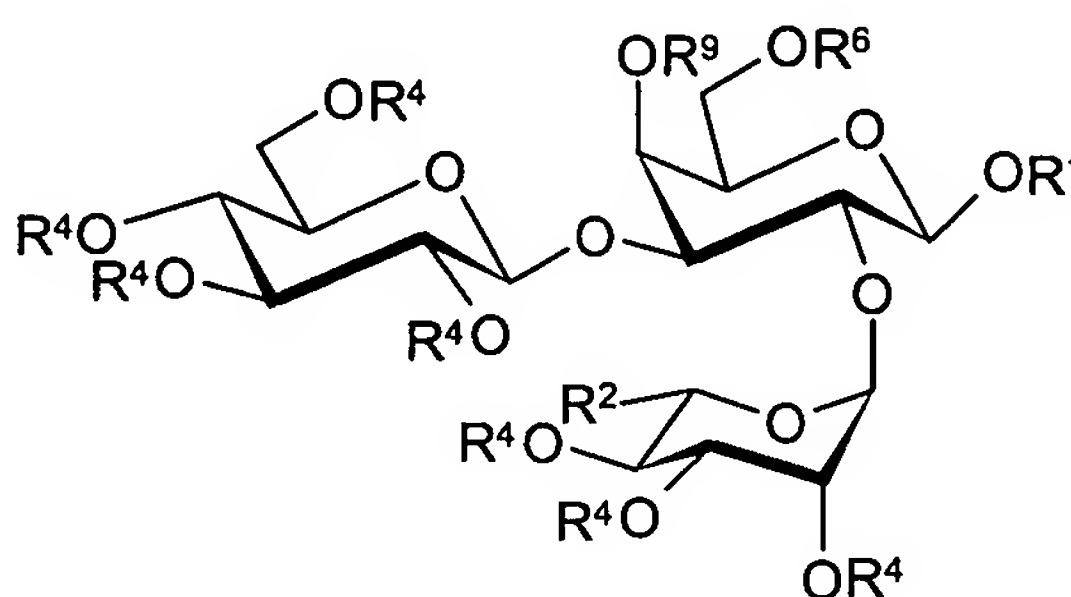
using thio urea in the presence of a sterically hindered non-nucleophilic base, and subsequently reacting the resulting intermediate with a protected halogen rhanmose derivative of general formula (XVI):



Formula (XVI)

wherein R² represents a straight or branched C₁₋₄ alkyl group or a hydroxyl group; R⁴ independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivoly protecting group; and R¹⁰ represents a halogen atom, a trichloroacetimidate group, or a thioalkyl group having 1 to

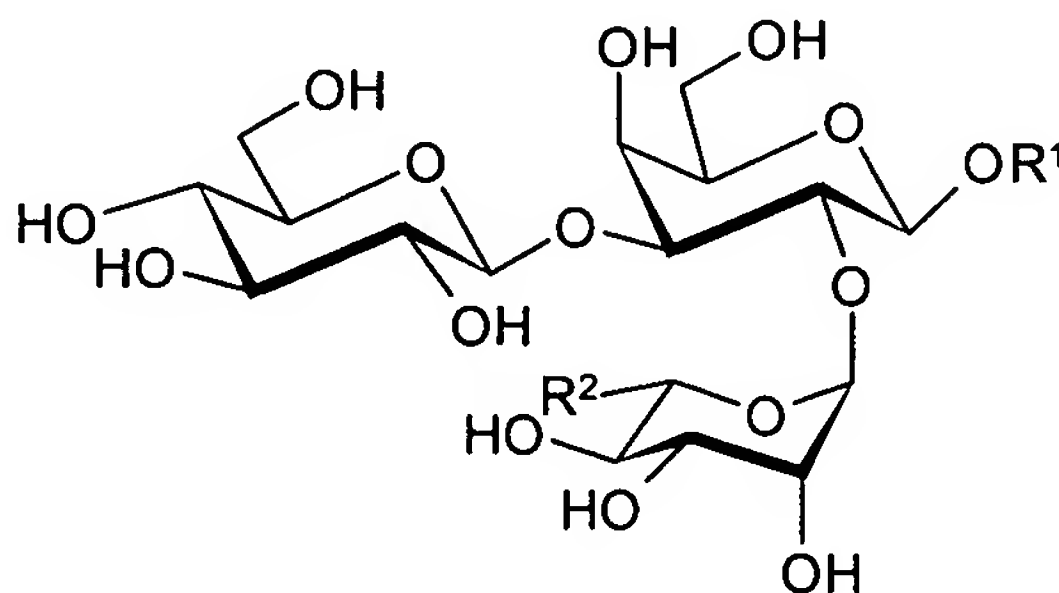
14 carbon atoms R^2 , R^4 and R^{10} are as defined in claims 1 and 10, respectively; to yield a compound of general formula (XVII):



Formula (XVII)

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^4 , R^6 , and R^9 are as defined in ~~claims 1, 5 and 9,~~ respectively above.

13. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1 to claim 12,~~ further comprising the step of:
deprotecting the compound of general formula (XVII) as defined in claim 12, to yield the compound of general formula (I) ~~as defined in claim 1~~



Formula (I)

wherein R^1 represents a steroid or a derivative thereof having a hydroxyl group in 3-position and no further unprotected hydroxyl groups; and R^2 represents a straight or branched C_{1-4} alkyl group or a hydroxyl group.

14. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R¹ represents a tomatidin-3-yl, demissidin-3-yl, solanidin-3-yl and solasodin-3-yl group.
15. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R² represents a methyl group.
16. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, wherein R³ in the compound of general formula (II) represents a bromine atom.
17. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, wherein R⁴ in the compound of general formula (II) represents an acetyl protecting group.
18. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 3, wherein R⁵ in the compound of general formula (III) represents a phenyl group.
19. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 6, wherein R⁷ in the compound of general formula (VII) represents a isopropylidene protecting group.
20. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 10, wherein R⁴ in the compounds of general formula (XI) ~~and/or compound of general formula (XVI)~~ represents a benzoyl protecting group.
21. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein reacting a compound of general formula (XIII) with a compound of general formula (XIV) is carried out in the presence of sterically hindered non-nucleophilic base.
22. (original) The method according to claim 21, wherein the sterically hindered non-nucleophilic base is selected from 2,6-lutidine, 2,4,6-collidine or 2,6-di-tertbutyl-4-methyl pyridine.

23. (currently amended) A steroid modified solatriose of general formula (I) as defined in ~~claims 1 or 15~~ claim 1, wherein R¹ represents a tomatidin-3-yl or demissidin-3-yl group.

24. (currently amended) A compound of general formula (XVII) as defined in ~~claims 12 or 15~~ claim 12.

25. (currently amended) A compound of general formula (XV) as defined in ~~claims 1 and 15~~ claim 1.

26. (original) A compound of general formula (X) as defined in claim 9.

27. (original) A compound of general formula (XII) as defined in claim 10.